List of Pending Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of setting up a communication procedure between instances, comprising the steps of:

selecting the instances that take part in the communication procedure, one instance being a protocol tester and another instance being an item under test;

selecting a protocol layer to be emulated by the protocol tester for testing a specified protocol layer of the item under test on the basis of the communication procedure, the protocol layer selected from a displayed list of protocol layers that are capable of being emulated by the protocol tester, the list of protocol layers including at least one layer 2 protocol from an OSI (Open Systems Interconnection) reference model;

selecting abstract communication interfaces of the emulated protocol layer for the communication procedure, the abstract communication interfaces selected from a displayed list of abstract communication interfaces associated with the selected protocol layer;

selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged at the abstract communication interfaces; and

automatically setting up through the protocol tester the communication procedure on the basis of the selections made in the above selecting steps, with parameters for the abstract communications interfaces and the communication data selecting steps being made graphically.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the instances selecting

step comprises the step of selecting the instances graphically, and/or the emulated protocol layer

selecting step comprises the step of selecting the emulated protocol layer graphically, and the

parameters selectable in these steps being assigned description files that are used in the setting up

step.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the abstract

communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

4.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 3 wherein the communication data comprise at

least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract

Service Primitives (ASPs).

5.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the communication data

comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUS) and

Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

6.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the communication data selecting

step comprises the steps of:

        graphically selecting a data format; and

        graphically setting up a communication sequence between the selected instances.

7.   (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the graphically setting up step

comprises the step of entering source code.

8.   (Previously Presented) A protocol tester comprising:

means for selecting instances taking part in a communication procedure, one of the instances being the protocol tester and another instance being an item under test;

means for displaying a list of protocol layers capable of being emulated by the protocol tester, the list of protocol layers including at least one layer 2 protocol from an OSI (Open Systems Interconnection) reference model;

means for selecting a protocol layer to be emulated by the protocol tester for testing a specified protocol layer of the item under test on the basis of the communication procedure;

means for displaying a list of abstract communication interfaces for the communication procedure, the list of abstract communication interfaces associated with the selected protocol layer to be emulated;

means for selecting abstract communication interfaces of the emulated protocol layer for the communication procedure;

means for selecting communication data contained in description files to be exchanged at the abstract communication interfaces; and

means for automatically setting up the communication procedure through the protocol tester on the basis of the selections of the various selecting means, with parameters for the abstract communication interfaces and the communication data selecting means being made graphically.

9.   (Previously Presented) The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein the instances selecting means and/or the emulated protocol layer selecting means comprise graphical selecting means and the parameters selected by these selecting means are assigned description files that are used in the automatically setting up means.

10.   (Previously Presented) The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

11.   (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 10 wherein the communication data comprises one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

12.   (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 11 further comprising means for entering source codes.

13.   (Original) The protocol tester as recited in claim 8 wherein all parameters selected by all the selecting means are assigned description files that are used by the setting up means.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

15.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

16.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the communication data comprise at least one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUS) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

17.   (Previously Presented) The protocol tester as recited in claim 9 wherein the abstract communication interfaces comprise Service Access Points (SAPs).

18.   (Previously Presented) The protocol tester as recited in claim 17 wherein the communication data comprises one type selected from the group consisting of Protocol Data Units (PDUs) and Abstract Service Primitives (ASPs).

19.   (Previously Presented) The protocol tester as recited in claim 18 further comprising means for entering source codes.

20.   (Previously Presented) A graphical user interface for a protocol tester comprising:

means for graphically selecting devices to be used in a communication procedure, a first

being the protocol tester and a second device being an item under test;

means for displaying a list of protocol layers capable of being emulated by the protocol

tester, the list of protocol layers including at least one layer 2 protocol from an OSI (Open

Systems Interconnection) reference model;

means for graphically selecting a protocol layer to be emulated by the protocol tester for

testing a specified protocol layer of the item under test;

means for displaying a list of service access points for the communication procedure, the

list of service access points interfaces associated with the selected protocol layer;

means for graphically selecting service access points of the protocol layer to be emulated

for the communication procedure;

means for graphically selecting communication data to be exchanged at the service access

points, the communication data contained in description files; and

means for automatically setting up the communication procedure through the protocol

tester on the basis of the selections of the various selecting means.